



Washington State Department of Agriculture Agency Request Legislation

Existing Fees for Existing Programs

HB 2461/SB 6229 – Milk Assessment Fee [\(Bill Text\)](#)

Description

- Extends the Milk Assessment fee (RCW 15.36.551), currently set to expire on June 30, 2010, to June 30, 2015.
- Last extended with the support of the dairy industry during the 2004 legislative session.

Why the fee is important

- Provides \$255,000 for dairy inspection work by WSDA Food Safety Program.
- Dairy inspections facilitate interstate movement of milk and milk products by ensuring compliance with the National Conference of Interstate Milk Shipments (IMS) and Grade “A” Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO).

Without passage

- WSDA cannot perform certain dairy inspection program services related to IMS and PMO.
- Industry will lose certification for the IMS Program and certain Grade A fluid milk and milk products will not be able to be sold into other states.

HB 2460/SB 6228 – Organic Certification and Material Registration [\(Bill Text\)](#)

Description

- Provides clear authority to continue the voluntary, fee-supported Materials Registration and Transitional Certification Programs within the WSDA Organic Program.

Why the bill is important

- Authority for materials approval and transitional certification was inadvertently removed in 2002 when the state’s Organic Food Products Act (RCW 15.86) was amended to adopt the USDA National Organic Program (NOP).
- Re-establishes clear authority for the Materials Approval and Transitional Certification Programs.

Without Passage

- WSDA will discontinue the Materials Registration and Transitional Certification Programs.
- Negative impacts for Washington organic producers:
 - Higher risk of violating USDA NOP standards during their transition to organic production.
 - Inability to market “Transitional” products.
 - Loss of Brand Name Material List dramatically increases a producer’s risk of violating organic certification from inadvertent use of prohibited materials.
- Manufacturers of organic sprays and fertilizers production aids will be unable to register USDA NOP compliant products with WSDA and list those products on the Brand Name Material List.

